

Shenandoah Trail Rides Guide

Horse Trip: 1-9 Mile Circuit

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Heiskell Hollow and Beecher Ridge

Map: PATC # 9 (North District)

Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

Trip Description: Enjoy wilderness solitude on narrow woodland trails.

Skyline Drive Parking

Parking: Mathews Arm Campground Parking
Trailer: Goose-neck trailer
Availability: Parking is generally available.

Boundary Parking

Parking: N/A
Trailer:
Availability:

Encounters: This route mainly receives horse use, though you may encounter hikers or backpackers. **Footings:** Long stretches are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness.

Total Distance 9.3 Miles

Park in Mathews Arm Campground Parking just east of the registration station. Ride out of the parking area and turn left, now on the road toward Knob Mountain (0.2 mile to the yellow gate). Ride around the yellow gate, continuing on the road 0.4 mile to the concrete post on your right. Turn right onto Heiskell Hollow Trail and ride 0.7 mile to the junction with Weddlewood Trail. Turn left at the post to stay on Heiskell Hollow Trail; your total distance on this trail will be 2.5 miles. Turn right at the post onto Beecher Ridge Trail, crossing a small stream then riding steeply uphill. At the crest of the ridge you will turn right at the post to stay on Beecher Ridge Trail. Ride the ridgetop on Beecher Ridge Trail; total distance on this trail is 3.1 miles. Bear right at the post, riding 0.5 miles on Mathews Arm Trail, toward Mathews Arm Campground. At Weddlewood Trail, turn right and ride 1.3 miles, completing the loop back to Heiskell Hollow Trail. Bear left at the post, now back on Heiskell Hollow Trail for 0.7 mile. Turn left onto Knob Mountain Road, which will bring you back to the parking area at the campground parking in 0.6 mile.

Notes

You will park across from the campground entrance station. Drive past the campground entrance station, turn right at the stop sign, then turn right again into the parking area. Note that the campground and parking area are closed in the winter and early spring. (This area is generally open from Memorial Day through October.)